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COMMON LAW BILL MUST BE SMASHED

SECTARIAN KILLINGS

WE NEED UNITY IN RESISTANCE

WE SAY IT AGAIN

U.D.R. are LEGAL ARMY OF LOYALIST FASCISM

The collaboration between the UDR and the Loyalist murder gangs is becoming so blatant that they hardly bother trying to disguise it any more. Back in July another UDR unit, allegedly guarding a power station at Coolkeeragh in Co. Derry, surrendered their weapons without a whimper to the local UDA. And on August 20th Harold Cardwell, a UDR Corporal from Carrickfergus was charged with possession of a sawn-off-shotgun. The Prosecution who should know better than most, stated that he'd been in the UVF as well as the UDR for the last year and a half.

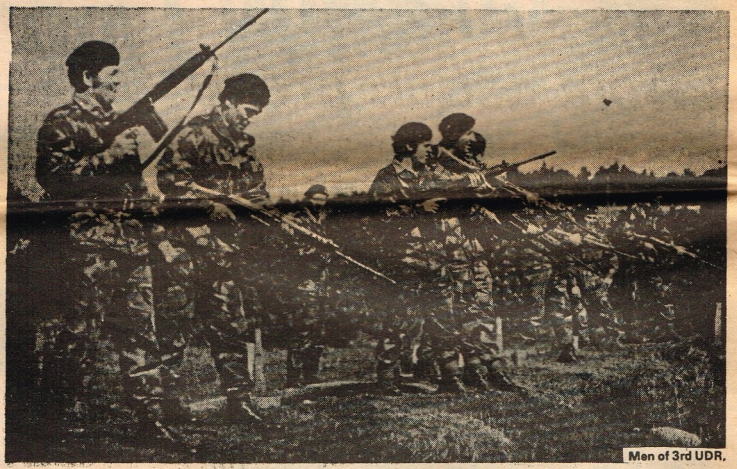
But this is routine stuff for the UDR. It was the Miami showband murders which produced more startling details. The murderers were wearing UDR uniforms and carrying UDR-issue SLR rifles. It looked as if the rifles came from one of the many unresisted raids on UDR depots and the Belfast Telegraph revealed a few days later that UDR uniforms and badges — including officers' — could be bought by anyone in a Belfast shop.

BUT SINCE THEN THOMAS CROZIER OF LURGAN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MURDERS AND IT HAS COME OUT THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF THE UDR. IT IS NOW WIDELY RUMOURED IN THE AREA THAT THE AMBUSH WAS SET UP BY A FULL SERVING UNIT OF THE UDR WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN HOW THEY KNEW THAT NO BRITISH ARMY OR UDR PATROLS WOULD INTERFERE WITH THEM.

The Miami murders revealed something else as well. Some time ago the UVF announced the setting up of an Ulster Central Intelligence Agency to unite the UVF and Loyalists in the "security forces" under a single command. Stormont Castle tried to dismiss the whole thing as bluff. But the death notices for the two UVF-men who blew themselves up in the Miami ambush included two from "the officers, Greenfinches and Women Constables of the UCIA" and from "the officers, privates and Constables of the UCIA". Greenfinches happens to be Army slang for women UDR-members and the death notices confirm that substantial numbers of RUC and UDR-members are working hand-in-glove with the murder gangs.

Members of 3rd (Co. Down) Battalion UDR, the Greenfinches,

Even Seamus Mallon S.D.L.P.-man for the Armagh area who along with the rest of the S.D.L.P. convention members usually spends his time placating Loyalists and condemning Republicans, has stated that last weekend's murder of two catholics returning from a match in Dublin was carried out at a U.D.R. roadblock with UDR weapons.



Men of 3rd UDR.

DERRY JOURNAL — OR DALY TIMES?

Even those endowed with only the dimmest of political wits, and there are, not surprisingly, many of them, are beginning to take seriously the rumour now circling

some Derry quarters that the Derry Journal is shortly to be renamed The Daly Times so great has been the coverage given by that paper to the utterances of Bishop-I-Prefer-to be-called-Father-Eddie Daly.

The paper, which comes out twice weekly is a veritable Christian Doctrine News sheet and the Bishop has become a recognised authority on such totally unrelated topics as the duties of Catholic teachers in Derry schools and the immorality of Sexual Perversions! No harm to Bishop Eddie of course for after all he did say that he is often quoted out of context and used by the newspapers. But then who isn't these days? And could you really complain if practically every word you spoke in public and in churches as far apart as Derry's Cathedral and Killarney, and not a few that you say in private for public consumption gets to make headline news at the end of the week in the city's paper. Some of the more cynical in the town truly believe that if bishop Eddie talked in his sleep that would get reported too!

So much coverage has been given to religious and High Moral Affairs over this past few years since the downfall of the Nationalist Party that it is strongly believed in these same circles that the Irish Catholic Hierarchy would not look unkindly at the suggestion that regular readers of the Derry Journal should be excused from having to put in a weekly appearance at the local church. They may also be rewarded with a lifetime supply of plenary indulgences.

In a city where there are daily incidents of the grosses injustice, the only other contender for extensive news coverage is the Chairman of the local Vintners Association who is forever presenting imitation silver cups and trophies to the soberer members of the city's many Dart Clubs. That is not to say of course that the editors of the paper do not have a definite editorial stance in matters political and relevant. They certainly have and it is like this. Make sure that all reporters on the staff are regular church goers and have at least first cousin relationships with a member of the clergy. Keep the hot line, and it has been very hot lately, with the Cathedral wide open at all times. Push and plug the SDLP Doctrine on Matters Political and Moral to the utmost limits. (Didn't Bishop Daly's SDLP brother do well in the recent Convention elections?) Talk endlessly about nothing of importance and print nothing of relevance to the everyday matters that effect the people. The only remaining ingredient to make your paper a raving success is a centre page spread advertising which pub, disco or hotel has the longest bar or extension for the weekend. Crown your success with a back page littered with Irish Dimension Type sports news.

It is any wonder that the level of political consciousness of the bulk of the people has been consistently pegged to such a low key when such is the quality of our newspapers? The Derry Journal is but one small member of a nationwide syndicate whose sole objective is to develop and tenderly cultivate an Andy Capp and Love Thy Neighbour Approach to the burning political issues of the day. Demand and print the news, not middle class moralistic garbage.

SECTARIAN KILLINGS CONTINUE

S.D.L.P.: GET OUT OF MURDERERS' CONVENTION

On Friday 22nd August last the bar and home of Frank McOscar and his family at Blackwatertown Co. Armagh was destroyed by a bomb.
The same night, three youths burst into the bar of John McGleenan in the Shambles area of Armagh, shot him dead and planted a bomb which destroyed the premises killing Patrick Hughes from Drumarg and injuring eleven others.
The next night a machine gun attack was made on the Trocadero bar in Cromac Street in Belfast. A bomb was thrown into the building and five people were injured. The same night a Catholic church was burnt to the ground at Craigiehill just outside Larne.
And on Sunday night two men returning from a football match in Dublin were shot dead near Newtownhamilton Co. Armagh.

That is just the most recent weekend total of killings in the North this year. There are things in commong between them all too: the four people killed were catholics, the sixteen people injured were catholics and the 3 bars which were destroyed were catholic-owned and served catholic areas. These are the simple facts about last weekends killings. Clearly all are the work of the Loyalist assassination squads which have claimed the lives of close on 100 catholic civilians this year so far.

But what response do we get from the "Elected leaders" of the North and of the Twenty Six counties? What response do we get from the Churches. From the twenty six counties govt. in Dublin there was not a murmur, not that we would have expected one, for the whole thing in Northern Ireland is going exactly to plan for them — Loyalist terror they hope will silence the voice of militance and resistance of the catholic working class in the north.

Harry West, leader of the Official Unionists in the Northern Ireland Convention, called for more Loyalists to join the Ulster Defence regiment and the RUC (!!!)

The S.D.L.P. condemned the killings and accused the UUUC of collusion with the sectarian assassins (But the SDLP are at the moment negotiating with these same people with a view to co-operating with them!)

And the British Minister of State Stanley Orme was quietly relaxing after having had private discussions with the organisations involved up to their necks in the sectarian killings — the UDA, the Red Hand Commandos and the Ulster Loyalist Central Co-ordinating Committee.

The Churches of course took up their usual 'radical' stance — and urged everyone to support the RUC and the UDR which are implicated up to their necks in the murders of the last few weeks.* Referring to the Armagh pub bomb the Rev. Malachy Coyle urged people to 'pray for peace' — and praised the RUC for such wonderful behaviour at the scene of the bomb, (for turning a blind eye to Loyalist assassins for the past three years?).

Yes indeed we have had the usual comments from all of the stars of newspaper headlines and TV feature programmes. Last week they were claiming that every death of a catholic was a retaliation for one or other of the Protestants killed the previous week. ** Now they don't have any answer.

Praying will not ened the sectarian assassinations. Supporting the "security forces" isn't much use when the assassinations suit them and when they are involved in them themselves. And supporting the SDLP won't do any good, engaged as they are in wishfully trying to sell the catholic population of the North into collusion with the fascist UUUC for whom the Loyalist paramilitaries are clearing the way.

DEFENCE MEANS RESISTANCE

The only defence against Loyalist assassinations is to resist them. Resistance means vigilante patrols and barricades. And it means more. It means that we must resist at every level at protecting ourselves from assassins, at building up supplies in preparation against any major Loyalist offensive, discussing defence plans for the areas, forming defence groups in factories and other places of work, resistance means supporting all united resistance demonstrations; it means supporting the unity of all anti-imperialist political and military groups.

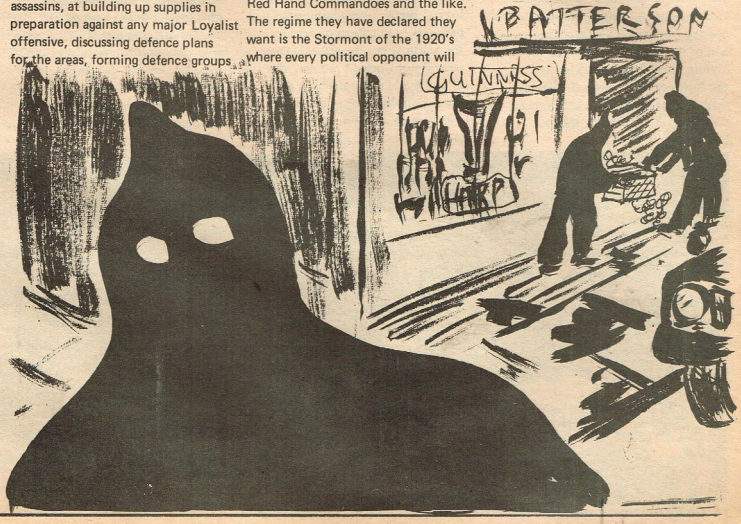
What we are facing at the moment is no flash in the pan. The Loyalists are not indulging in such a spate of killings just for fun. They want political power in Northern Ireland. Their policy is to terrorise the catholics out of support for the fight for an end to British control and Unionist discrimination and sectarianism.
It is to terrorise the SDLP to accept like mice a floor-sweeper's place in the N.I. Convention. It is to force along the UUUC politicians, to keep them on their toes when they falter, to keep up their fascist demands. And it all suits Britain, for she has shown over the period of the Ceasefire that she will get out at any price and giving power to a strong loyalist majority is her answer.

The Convention at the moment has this Loyalist majority — but it can only succeed if the SDLP are seen to take part — in whatever way. As long as they are in it they give it the credibility the British need for it. And as long as they are in it the Catholic population is divided on the question of opposition to the Loyalists. We must demand that the SDLP GET OUT of the Convention, we must force them out of it.

Remember, the Convention will give control to the UUUC and to their paramilitary allies in the UDA/UVF Red Hand Commandoes and the like. The regime they have declared they want is the Stormont of the 1920's where every political opponent will be put down or put behind bars and where the paramilitaries will become the police force. Do you want the Sectarian killers parading your streets in the uniforms of the RUC & UDR? Then you must RESIST the Loyalist takeover which with the help of the SDLp is taking place at the moment. DEMAND THAT YOUR SDLP REPRESENTATIVE GET OUT OF THE CONVENTION. FORM RELIEF AND RESISTANCE COMMITTEES IN YOUR AREAS. SUPPORT THE UNITED RESISTANCE DEMONSTRATIONS

**Regularly in Unfree Citizen we have given examples of how many people convicted of sectarian assassination attempts on Catholics or of murders or boming have declared their membership of the UVF or UDA and have also been members of the Ulster Defence Regiment. See this week's article on the Miami showband killings on Back page Also, as we go to press we hear of the double murder on the border of two men returning from a football match. Again all the evidence points to this murder having been carried out by a full time serving unit of the UDR.*

*** At a time when so many catholic civilians are being murdered by the Loyalist para-military organisations it is not surprising that frustrated retaliatory action from the catholic population takes place. We believe that such action leads absolutely nowhere. It does not stop — or even hinder — the assassinations for the simple reason that the Loyalist assassinations are not the result simply of a hatred, but are part of a planned campaign of terror against the Catholic population to frighten them out of support for the anti-imperialist struggle, to demoralise them. The only answer to the killings is an organised united political and military opposition which can challenge the political power Britain has given the UUUC in the Convention which can challenge the paramilitaries. Such an opposition is a united front of all the anti-Imperialist organisations.*



CRIMINAL LAW J

GREATEST ATTACK YET BY 26

THIS BILL MUST

An R.U.C. sergeant in action in the Bogside in 1969.

The police state is getting nearer in the 26 Cos. First there was the jury-less Special Criminal Court, then the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act whereby men can be jailed solely on the word of a Garda Superintendent. Now it's the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill which has just been passed by the 26 Co. Seanad and will go to the Dail as soon as it re-assembles.

The Criminal Law Bill is the most far-reaching example yet of the collaboration between the Dublin Government and British Imperialism and the Northern Loyalists. The aim of the Bill is to end the right of asylum for political offenders from the North and to enable the Dublin Government to put men and women on trial in the South for political "offences" in the North.

CRIMINAL LAW BILL WILL CONTRAVENE HUMAN RIGHTS

Almost all countries in the world refuse to extradite political offenders who have fled the regime in their own country and the European Convention of Human Rights prohibits extradition for political offences. This international tradition has grown up for the good reason that domestic revolts in countries are usually due to tyranny or oppression by the governments there and to extradite political prisoners is to take sides in the domestic conflict and back the Government of another country. It is particularly unheard of for one country to extradite political offenders to another country which is in unlawful occupation of part of its territory, the more so when the refugees' "crime" is to have attempted to end that occupation.

Up to now 26 Co. Govts. and Courts have always honoured the convention of political asylum. During the 1955–62 Border campaign even the Fine Gael Taoiseach John A. Costello stated that there could be no question of extraditing political offenders and during the recent campaign the Courts in the South have thrown out all applications for extradition for political offences.

CRIMINAL LAW BILL WORSE THAN EXTRADITION

The Criminal Law Bill will change all that. To avoid the shame of actually handing women and men over to the Northern authorities it proposes to put them on trial in the South – but the effect is the same if not worse. A whole series of politically motivated acts and attacks on the State in the North will become offences in the South just as if they were carried out in the South and against the Southern State. The effect is that the Southern state not only recognises but endorses and supports the Northern regime and declares that any blow against the Belfast or Westminster Govt.s is a blow against itself. – P.D. has always maintained that the supposedly independent government in Dublin was just as closely tied to Britain as the Stormont regime: this is dramatic proof of it. – The Bill, directed as it is at cruching the Northern revolt, amounts to a vote of approval for the 50 years of Orange Ascendancy that produced that revolt and the savagery and slaughter used by the British Army and their para-military allies to resist it.

DETAILS OF THE BILL ARE INCREDIBLY VICIOUS

The principle of the Bill is bad enough but the details are even worse. It lists over a dozen types of offences which, if committed in the North, will become offences in the South. They range from murder through fire-arms and explosives charges and malicious damage to hi-jacking and robbery. Prosecutions will be initiated by requests from the RUC which must be acted on. The result will be to give the RUC with their long record of turning a blind eye to Loyalist assassinations and of consistently charging Catholics with more serious offences than Protestants, a splendid opportunity to vent their spite by charging dozens, maybe hundreds of Northern refugees with spurious offences which will keep many of them in custody for months until they're cleared.

RUC TOUTS WILL GIVE EVIDENCE

The procedure for hearing the cases is extraordinary. It's presumed they will all come before the juryless Special Criminal Court but special arrangements are made to protect witnesses (probably RUC-men and touts). Evidence from Northern witnesses will be taken in the North by a Northern court. The accused will have a right to be present and is supposedly guaranteed immunity from other charges while there but she or he can only attend in the custody of the RUC of British Army even if they're on bail in the South and they'll have to stay in custody throughout the proceedings – which could take weeks or months – unless there's an adjournment. An accused person on bail in the South would be arrested by the Gardai and handed over to the RUC for the hearing. Very few Northern refugees are likely to attend under those circumstances and even if they do the hearing will not be in public and the Northern judge has the power to exclude them from the Court if he wished so they might never even see their accusers. And there's always the possibility that if the RUC or Army wanted rid of them badly enough, they might be shot while "trying to escape" – or handed over to Loyalist assassins.

UP TO SEVEN YEARS FOR ESCAPING

But there are a few other extraordinary parts of the Bill. For instance escaping from custody in the North, even if you're only charged, not convicted, becomes an offence in the South. An escaper who was never even convicted in the North or who was sentenced to less than a year can get up to 7 years in the South for escaping. And anybody who helps him escape can be charged in the South as well.

LOYALIST KIDNAPPINGS LEGALISED

The Bill also authorises any civilian to arrest anyone they believe to be committing or have committed an offence in the North. This clause could legalise the action of a Loyalist gang trying to kidnap Republicans in the South. It is no idle threat: 3 loyalists are in jail in the South for trying to

URISDICTION BILL

COS. ON RESISTANCE STRUGGLE

BE SMASHED

kidnap an Armagh man, Seamus Grew, in Monaghan last year. (He was later shot by the RUC in Armagh). Under this Bill they would be congratulated for doing a public service.

DRASTIC INCREASES IN 26 CO. PENALTIES TOO

One of the most sinister aspects of this vicious measure is that it also aims to drastically increase the penalties for certain offences within the South, something which has nothing to do with its declared purpose. The Coalition Government are clearly trying to sneak this increase in penalties through without much public notice. The major changes are that robbery with force or threats and burglary with a weapon or imitation weapon can now be punished with life imprisonment and hi-jacking a car can be punished with 15 years. If this gets through the South will have one of the toughest penal codes in Europe.

LAST LEGACY OF SUNNINGDALE

The Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill was originally intended as part of the cynical Sunningdale package; the British and the Loyalists would give the Catholic middle-class a share in power in the North and the Dublin Govt. would throw the full resources of the Southern state behind the new arrangement. But Sunningdale is dead, wrecked by Loyalist intransigence and the North is heading straight for a Loyalist take-over. The Bill, if passed, will now become an endorsement of a semi-fascist Loyalist regime. Why is Dublin going ahead with it? It can only be, as we have argued before in Unfree Citizen, that the Coalition Govt. wants stability at any price in the North, even the price of the final abandonment of the Northern minority to fascist terror and crushing of anyone who tries to defend them.

BILL – A DEADLY THREAT TO RESISTANCE. NEED FOR ALL OUT OPPOSITION

This Bill is a deadly threat to the resistance in the North. It will be a blow from the rear at those engaged in the struggle and if it is passed it will shatter the morale of the Northern minority to realise that the population of the South have let such a measure pass. The Bill will go before the Dail in the Autumn; it could be through all its stages by Christmas. It is vitally important that all anti-imperialist organisations launch a massive campaign against it immediately. Our position is strong. There is a groundswell of public opposition to collaboration in the South. Fianna Fail have begun to feel it and were force to oppose the Bill in the Seanad – though only a fool would believe their opposition was sincere. The Coalition government are unsure of themselves. That's why they introduced the Bill in the Seanad first. They have a safe majority there and nobody passes much attention to what the Seanad does. But even there they ran into trouble. Senator Michael Mullen of the ITGWU, reflecting the feeling of his union members, voted against it. In the Dail a couple of the Labour T.D.s are wavering. A campaign of protests and demonstrations especially in the trade unions can defeat this brutal measure. It is crucial that we do. If we cannot defeat the government on an issue like this we can never hope to mobilise the population of the South to intervene decisively in the Northern conflict.

FOOTNOTE: *Among 5 so-called Labour Senators who voted for the Criminal Law Bill on July 31st was Roddy Connolly, one-time Communist and Republican and son of James Connolly. Let's hope it will be the last political act of this degenerate hack who has brought shame and disgrace on his father's name. What other word but traitor could describe a man who collaborates with his father's murderers?*

UNITED ANTI-INTERNMENT COMMITTEE

The United Anti-Internment Committee was formed during the weeks leading up to the 4th Anniversary of Internment, to co-ordinate the anti-internment protest activity of the groups involved and to give a lead on the issue of united activity to other groups and the anti-Unionist people in general. The groups involved in the U.A.I.C. at present are the IRSP, RMG and PD, all of whom recognise the need for united political activity around the issues of internment and repression at this, the most crucial stage of the anti-imperialist struggle.

REE'S PROMISES

Merlyn Rees has said he hopes all internees will be released by Christmas but the attitudes and action of his government would suggest something different. The British parliament spent the weeks leading up to the 9th August passing more effective internment laws and giving the Secretary of State new powers to deal with it. Further, in line with the Gardiner Report, the British intend to end Political Prisoner status and remove the hard-won rights of the political prisoners. The Internees report that tons of building materials and wire are being delivered and erected at Magilligan and Long Kesh camps every day.

We have consistently said that the internees are being used as hostages for our good behaviour. We have said that internment is a cruel form of blackmail used by the British to silence opposition and we have said that only united action on the streets can hope to force the British to end it and release the political pirsoners.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

The present situation is an extremely dangerous one for the anti-imperialist population. The SDLP have totally given in to the Loyalists in the Convention and are now scrambling for crumbs off the UUUC table. Until recently it appeared the UUUC were prepared to give them a few crumbs in the form of chairmanships of committees with no executive powers (just like those offered by Brian Faulkner in July 1971). The August 9th demonstrations put paid to that and we have seen in recent weeks how the real power lies in the hands of the fascist gangs of the UDA/UVF who have made it clear that there are to be no concessions made to the SDLP. This underlines what PD have always said: there can be no compromise with Loyalistm or British Imperialism.

BRITISH HAVE THE INITIATIVE

At the moment the initiative lies with the British and the balance of forces are very much in their favour. The anti-Unionist areas of the North are swamped by heavily armed British troops. The British have the support of the Ulster Loyalists who are completely united in their opposition to Republicanism and Socialism. They have shown that opposition politically by co-operating with each other in the UUUC and militarily in the setting up of the Ulster Army Council and the Ulster Central Intelligence Agency.

Finally the British have the support of the Government of the 26 Cos. one of the strongest (politically) weapons in their hands.

STAND TOGETHER TO RESIST, TO GO FORWARD

THE WAY FORWARD

The situation is far from hopeless. The British and the Loyalists can be beaten. But only if positive policy towards the Loyalists is adopted. Any mass anti-imperialist movement not prepared to face up to Loyalism is doomed to defeat. We have got to challenge it but to do so will take courage and will mean sacrifices from everyone in a common cause. The Irish working class North and South, have proven over the past few years that they have the courage and are prepared to make sacrifices. We believe the time has come for all anti-imperialist organisations to show that same willingness to sacrifice for the common good.

We must worked out a strategy of regroupment which will enable us to move forward once again. The whole of the Irish people must be mobilised and the Irish working class in its own class interest, must for the first time, take the decisive lead in the struggle for National Liberation.

P.D. is putting forward the following demands as a basis for moving forward towards such unity:

1. **End of Internment**
2. **Release of political prisoners**
3. **Withdrawal of Troops**
4. **Resistance to Loyalist takeover**
5. **Opposition to the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill**
6. **Get the SDLP out of the Convention**

These demands are only a small part of our policy, but we believe that they are the minimum necessary to regroup the revolutionary forces. We do not believe that any one group could carry out this programme. Political unity is essential and a united front the best way to achieve this.

UNITED ANTI-INTERNMENT COMMITTEE

We believe the formation of the UAIC in the North is a major step towards this unity. In the 26 Cos. we believe the Irish Civil Rights Association is the most effective body for unity activity there. The immediate task of the ICRA should be to lead resistance to the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill. Such mass mobilisation of the 26 Co. working class on the National Question is necessary. It is necessary both to put a stop to the government policy of collaboration and to provide the base of mass support for the northern anti-imperialist population against Loyalism and against British Imperialism.

COMMON ISSUE IS SURVIVAL

The U.A.I.C. have agreed to continue united front activity and are organising a series of weekly meetings in the anti-Unionist areas in the weeks ahead (see list below). These meetings are to culminate in a conference which all anti-imperialist organisations and individuals will be invited to attend.

We call again on all genuine anti-imperialist groups to come forward now and take part in these activities so that we can show united opposition to British Imperialism and Ulster Loyalism at a time when they appear to have the strongest hand. We must show clearly to the anti-imperialist population that we all consider the issue facing us to be more important than individual organisations. That issue being now the very survival of the Irish revolution.

U.A.I.C. AUTUMN DEMONSTRATIONS

The following is a list of dates and venues for meetings organised by the United Anti-Internment Committee

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
Ardoyne (Belfast) — Shops at Brompton Park — 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER
Markets — Cromac Square — 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER
Divis Flats — 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER
Artillary Flats New Lodge Road 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER
Short Strand, Seaford St. — 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER
Andersonstown Barracks — 3 o'clock

SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER
Indoor Rally — venue to be arranged

REMEMBER: SOLIDARITY is essential

Offer your help now for these demonstrations

S.D.L.P. ROAD TO FAILURE

On Thursday August 21st the SDLP held a wake to commemorate its fifth year of survival as a political party. Gerry Fitt, speaking to assembled journalists and party hacks, recalled the opportunist lumping together of six Nationalist chancers at Stormont to become the 'Catholic leadership'. "We are trying to form a full-blooded socialist party". Said Fitt with a straight face.

Fitt's lies and the reality are somewhat different. The SDLP were formed as an instrument of betrayal – to try and keep the hands of the Catholic business class on the reins of the anti-imperialist struggle and prevent any working-class leadership arising. Their whole history has been one betrayal after another as at each major turning point they backed the British rather than face the spectre of revolution.

The SDLP's role has reached the peak of betrayal since the beginning of the Convention. From collaboration with imperialism they have followed their British masters into collaboration with Fascism. SDLP support, already at an all-time low, sank to new lows when they began private sell-out talks with the SDLP and issued statements describing the "large measure of agreement" they found with the Fascist Craig.

However the talks ended abruptly on Wednesday 20th August with complete disagreement over the issue of power-sharing. Does this mean that the SDLP are prepared to fight? On at least that there is a limit to their betrayal of the anti-unionist working class? There is a danger that SDLP supporters will breathe a sigh of relieve, or that sections of the working class might expect some new initiative from the SDLP. In fact the SDLP are still committed to a sell-out and it is still vitally necessary to get them out of the Convention.
The following points should be borne in mind:

They have capitulated on their programme

In the Convention and 'leaks' from the private talks the SDLP made it clear that they had abandoned a United Ireland and an Irish dimension. They were prepared to accept the return of a revamped Stormont and the re-introduction of the criminal RUC.

They have capitulated on power sharing

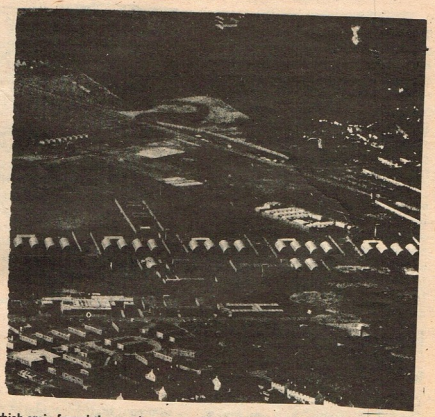
When they went into private talks the UUUC made it clear that they would not accept any form of power sharing. The SDLP however said that they were willing to negotiate and compromise. What they were negotiating therefore was not any form of community government, but a few jobs for the SDLP boys as a cover for UUUC rule in a new Stormont.

The UUUC broke off the talks

It was not the SDLP's 'principles' which led to the breakdown of talks but the UUUC decision to accept nothing short of complete surrender. They weren't willing to offer even a face-saving facade of power sharing to the SDLP. Gerry Fitt, at the birthday wake the day after the breakdown of talks, had the last word. "We will not fail the people who want to see a political solution . . . we will make every effort to take other political representatives down the road of compromise".

Fitt and his cronies represent a very real danger. By continuing negotiation they will disarm a section of the anti-Unionist population and confuse and slow down the only real defence against a fascist takeover – mass armed defence of the people. It's as clear as it will ever be that no negotiation with Fascism is possible. They must be got out of the Convention – and got out now!

BRITS GIVEN A RUN ON LONG KESH MARCH



On Sunday 17th August the annual march to Long Kesh Internment Camp was held in Belfast. This year the march was organised by the United Anti Internment Committee which at present consists of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, Peoples Democracy and the Revolutionary Marxist Group. The anti-Internment Committee was formed a few weeks perior to August 9th to provide a united platform on the issue of internment. It is unfortunate that at this particular time only 3 groups have seen fit to come together and attempt to make it work.

Sunday's march set off from Beechmount Falls Road. with a few hundred supporters. As it progressed it built up to about 1000 and it was then stopped by a massive turnout of Troops and RUC, backed up by a large number of agitated loyalists.

A meeting was held near this point and on completion of the speeches the organisers had to make a diversion to avoid a sectarian confrontation. Those who spoke (a speaker from each of the three organisations) pressed the need for unity on the issue of internment and called on all other anti-imperialists groups which had ignored the unity call to forget their political differences existing and come together to force an end to internment. Many [illegible] of the committee to build on the basis of the demonstrations and protests which had been organised by them over internment. They said they would carry on the work of the committee until a more representative committee was formed.

By the time the march moved off away from the RUC lines, it numbered well over 1000. Many local people had joined in to support it and had shown they were not going to be deterred by a roadblock. In an attempt to lead the march past the Loyalist enclave at Blacks Road, the organisers directed it down Suffolk Rd. Here out of the way of prying eyes and with minimum television coverage members of the notorious 'Black Watch' with RUC support, charged up from the direction of Stewardstown Road and began firing plastic bullets into a small section of the crowd. As they had already calculated a running battle ensued which again forced the march organisers to regroup and carry on the march up to the Glen Rd. towards Colm Glen. It was here as has happened before that the march was finally halted by a massive contingent of Brits and RUC lining the high ground on both road itself.

High spirits at the vicotry in outwitting the Brits was the order of the day as the march made its way back to Andersonstown. Once again the anti-Unionist had managed to break out of their ghettoes in West Belfast. They had made a serious bid to march demonstrated what is nie in [illegible]

NEW RECORD

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WHAT IT SAYS IN THE PAPERS

R.U.C. On "under age drinking" hunt — (with sub-machine guns and pistols!)

The RUC are not loved in the anti-Unionist areas of Armagh. In fact they are probably less liked there than anywhere else in the North of Ireland. Their record over the last few years in particular ensures them the dislike of quite a few people in particular, who have relatives killed or in prison as a result of the friendly RUC's attention.

The best example of the RUC's esteem for themselves, came at the weekend when they chose to use the occasion of the murders of John Mac Gleenal and Patrick Hughes to pat themselves on the back. The following report appeared in the Irish times:

> The police spokesman said he felt it was necessary to point out that in the course of combatting under-age drinking in the area, the police had visited McGleenan's bar a short time before the attack on Friday night and found everything in order there. He added that McGleenan's was just one of eight bars visited that night for that purpose alone.

Our Armagh readers are surprised to find that the RUC have time to worry about under-age drinking in the town. They and everyone else in the area were always under the impression that when the RUC entered a pub armed to the teeth, they were looking for something else. But sure then, some charitable deeds are never appreciated at the time.

Newsletter thinks of everything

The Belfast Newsletter is well known for its extreme Lyalist sympathies. So it was not surprising to see it supporting the Ulster Workers Council Strike in May of last year. This week thought, it must get first prize for originality, for in Monday's (28th Aug.) edition it carried this remarkable comment on the burning of a Catholic church in Larne.

> A-25
>
> By Hamilton McDowell
>
> were more or less helpless to save much of the building. ... is well clear of houses on the Killyglen Road and nobody's life was endangered.
>
> There was evidence of a break-in at the back and shortly after the blaze had died down ...

A pat on the back to the arsonists? They can't be too bad — all they did was burn a Fenian church, and sure they didn't "endanger human life".

BEHIND THE WIRE 25p back in print

SUNDAY WORLD

Gusty Spence

HELPING THE FASCISTS

The Loyalist paramilitary organisations rely on terror to demonstrate their loyalty to Britain. The pub-and-home bombings, the assassination of workers the petrol bombs and intimidation, all add up to them trying to strike fear into the hearts of the anti-Unionist population of the North and of the 26 Counties. They have had many supporters to help them in this on both sides of the border. Not the least of these has been the 'Sunday World' which from time to time puts in a plug for the Loyalists, especially the UDA. Last Sunday's edition carried an article headed "exclusive" with pictures and comments from Long Kesh by Gusty Spence, the UVF leader. Included in this "Exclusive" (which incidentally, also appeared in the London 'Sunday Times'!) were comments by Spence which can only be designed to add to the "Terror" image of the UVF. Such sensationalist stories are a direct blow to the morale of the beleagured anti-Unionist working class in the Six Counties who have withstood a horrific spate of sectarian assassinations in the last nine months. They give a ring of credibility to the fascist aspirations of the UVF and their counterparts and they put the Sunday World among the enemies of the struggle which faces us all in Ireland.

CONNOLLY BOOKSHOP,
Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast 11

At the moment several of our pamphlets are out of stock and are in the process of being reprinted. We still have "Fascism and the Six Counties" available and a few copies of Vol. 1 of "Songs from the Barricades".

"FASCISM AND THE SIX COUNTIES" gives an explanation of what fascism is, and goes on to trace its rise in Italy and Germany before and during the Second World War. It explains the make-up of European fascism in the light of this history and finally explains the relevance of these facts to the position of many of the Loyalist organisations in the North today.
PRICE 20p. Available from Unfree Citizen sellers or by post from above address for 25p post paid.

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Due to increased costs of production and postage these rates have now been revised as follows:

Three months, sent weekly	£1.50
Six months, sent weekly	£3.00
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We would ask readers whose subscriptions are now overdue to send them in as soon as possible.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

The People's Democracy is a revolutionary socialist organisation fighting for the establishment in Ireland of a 32-county Socialist Workers Republic.

We have learned through our experience of the struggle in the 6 Counties that there can be no progress made towards that goal until British Imperialism, the age-old dominator and exploiter of Ireland, is defeated and the artificial partition of our country ends.

We therefore support the war of resistance against British Imperialism centred in the 6 Cos. and have agitated and will continue to agitate, for mass support for that war — North and South.

Both states, 6 Co. and 26 Co., are capitalist controlled. The 26 Co. Government — and indeed all the Leinster House politicians — support Britain in the continuation of Partition in Ireland and actively promote this by their policy of repression in the 26 Cos. Consequently the struggle for National liberation and Socialism must be fought in the 26 Counties as well.

The economic problems faced by the 26 counties, which have thrown thousands on the dole-queues, are the product of Ireland's economic subservience to Britain and to foreign big business. The wage cuts and the price rises cannot be solved by the Irish government. They can only be solved by a socialist system which puts production under workers control, which can act only in the interests of the workers — a 32 Co. workers republic.

That Republic cannot be built as long as we have imperialist control in Ireland, as long as we have Partition which divides the working class, and as long as we have a system which allows ANY businessman Irish or foreign, to take the fruits of our workers' labour.

In the present situation it is clear that Britain is not going to give up economic control in the North. She is going to hand over 'security' to the Loyalists by recruiting from the ranks of the UVF, UDA etc. in to the RUC, RUC Reserve and U.D.R. We are opposed to any form of Loyalist control in any part of Ireland. Loyalism is a slave philosophy, it is the cornerstone of British imperialist control in the 6 Cos. It is represented by fascists like William Craig and the Ulster Workers Council. It is represented by fascist para-military groups such as the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Loyalists want a return to a sectarian Stormont administration. They want the 6 Cos. to be part of the United Kingdom. As socialists we are opposed to this control of our country by another. We believe in the right to self-determination of the Irish people over 32 Counties.

People's Democracy's activities and policies are based on our experience in the Irish struggle over the last six years, and on a Marxist analysis of Irish history. We believe that only a revolutionary socialist party can lead the struggle for socialism to build the Workers' Republic in Ireland. We are working to build that party.

JOIN P.D. NOW

If you are interested in joining the PEOPLES DEMOCRACY and fighting for a Socialist Republic in Ireland fill in the form below and send it to:

BELFAST: Connolly Bookshop, Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast 11
DUBLIN: Citizen Press, Basement, 80 Marlboro Street, Dublin 1.
LONDON: P. Doherty, 134—136, Kingsland High St., London E8

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LETTERS AND QUERIES TO PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

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